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(CIA)

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THE PRIVATE LIFE OF A NERVOUS, COGNAC-DRINKING WOMAN OFFICIAL IN COMMUNIST EAST GERMANY WAS DESCRIBED TODAY BY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

THE LIFE OF EAST GERMAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE HILDE BENJAMIN WAS PORTRAYED BY CIA OFFICIAL RICHARD HELMS AS ONE OF CONTINUAL SUSPENSE IN A COUNTRY PRIMED FOR REVOLT AGAINST ITS COMMUNIST RULERS.

HELMS IN A SPEECH PREPARED FOR THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION'S 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, INDICATED HIS INFORMATION HAD COME FROM "REPORTS OF THE CIA, RECEIVED OVER THE POST-WAR YEARS..."

THE CIA IS BELIEVED TO MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF AGENTS IN IRON CURTAIN COUNTRIES.

HELMS SAID THE STORY OF HILDE WAS IN A SENSE "THE STORY OF THE WHOLE MOCK GOVERNMENT OF EAST GERMANY -- THE REGIME THAT THE SOVIETS AT GENEVA HAVE BEEN TRYING TO CLOAK IN RESPECTABILITY."

HE SAID HILDE WAS THOROUGHLY TRAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION BEFORE SHE RETURNED TO EAST GERMANY IN 1949.

"SHE HAD LEARNED WELL WHAT SOVIET LAW IS: A COMMUNIST SACRIFICIAL RITE PERFORMED PERIODICALLY TO REMIND THE MEMBERS OF THE TRIBE NOT TO BREAK THE TABOOS," HELMS SAID.

"TODAY, AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, HILDE DOMINATES WHAT IS LEFT OF EAST GERMAN JURISPRUDENCE. BUT SHE DOES NOT SEEM HAPPY. SHE HAS BEEN KNOWN TO STORM FROM HER CHAMBERS AND SCREAM AT A CONFUSED CLERK IN THE ROOM ABOVE HER THAT HIS CHAIR SQUEAKS. SHE POLISHED OFF A VERY LARGE GLASS OF COGNAC AT A GULP. AT LEAST ONE BODYGUARD PROTECTS HER AT ALL TIMES -- THREE WHEN SHE'S HOME. THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE IS NERVOUS."

HELMS' SPEECH WAS BUILT AROUND THE THOUGHT THAT "IF AMERICANS STAND FIRM IN PATIENCE AND RESOLUTION, THE SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLES MAY SOME DAY COME TO LIFE IN EASTERN EUROPE."

HE SAID "THE SPIRIT OF ... REBELLION IS NOT DEAD. IT LIVES IN HUNGARY, IN LIVERATED AUSTRIA, IN THREATENED BERLIN, IN THE USSR ITSELF."

6/13--JD851A